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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-19 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter thereof.

1.-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A system to perform closed loop controlled delivery of electrical stimulation to excitable neural tissue of a portion of the spine ~~of a one or more nerves in a~~ body, comprising:

a sensing circuit to sense at least one physiologic parameter and provide an output signal related thereto;

a stimulation circuit to provide the electrical stimulation to excitable neural tissue of a portion of the spine in response to the output signal ~~the one or more nerves;~~ and

a closed loop control circuit coupled to the sensing circuit and to the stimulation circuit to control the stimulation circuit based on anticipation of an occurrence of a cardiac insult as indicated by the at least one physiologic parameter.

21. (original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the control circuit includes a patient-activation mechanism.

22. (original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the control circuit includes means for initiating the electrical stimulation in response to the at least one physiologic parameter sensed by the sensing circuit.

23. (original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the control circuit includes means for altering the electrical stimulation in response to the at least one physiologic parameter sensed by the sensing circuit.

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24. (original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the control circuit includes means for ceasing the electrical stimulation in response to the at least one physiologic parameter sensed by the sensing circuit.

25. (original) The system of Claim 20, and further including means for notifying a patient of the anticipation of the occurrence of the cardiac insult.

26. (original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the stimulation circuit includes at least one implanted electrode.

27. (original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the stimulation circuit includes at least one subcutaneous electrode.

28. (original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the stimulation circuit includes at least one electrode positioned proximate an external surface of the body.

29. (original) The system of Claim 20, and further including a storage device coupled to the control circuit to store results of past electrical stimulation; and

wherein the control circuit include means for performing future electrical stimulation based on the results of past electrical stimulation.

30. (original) The system of Claim 20, and further including a drug delivery system coupled to the control circuit to deliver biologically-active agents based on the anticipation of the occurrence of the cardiac insult.

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31. A device to provide electrical stimulation to at least one predetermined portion of excitable neural tissue of a portion of the spine of the nervous system in a patient's body, comprising:

means for sensing at least one physiologic indication in the patient's body;

means for providing stimulation to the at least one predetermined portion of excitable neural tissue of a portion of the spine of a the nervous system in the patient's body; and

means for performing closed loop controlling of the stimulation means to provide the stimulation based on an indication of a probable future cardiac insult as determined by the at least one physiologic indication ~~in the patient's body~~.

32. (original) An apparatus for protecting cardiac tissue from insult, comprising:

at least one electrode positionable at a region adjacent a portion of excitable neural tissue of a portion of the spine of a patient's nervous tissue;

a sensing circuit to detect at least one physiologic parameter; and

a controller adapted to deliver closed loop-controlled electrical stimulation to the at least one electrode for a period of time prior to onset of an cardiac insult, wherein at least one parameter of the electrical stimulation is controlled as a function of the sensed physiologic parameter.

33. (original) The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein the controller includes means for delivering electrical stimulation for a period of time after the onset of the insult.

34. (original) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the controller includes means for delivering electrical stimulation for a period of time after the termination of the insult.

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35. (original) The apparatus of claim 32, and further including a circuit coupled to the controller to provide electrical stimulation to cardiac tissue.

36. (original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the electrical stimulation comprises pacing pulses.